

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /071 W

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R 131250Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7566

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,IS, SA

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN NEWS MEDIA TREATMENT OF SAUDI C-130 INCIDENT

1. SUMMARY: JORDANIAN NEWS MEDIA ARE PRESENTING BOTH SAUDI AND ISRAELI VERSIONS OF WHAT HAPPENED TO SAUDI C-130 WHICH LANDED AT BEN GURION AIRPORT; SAUDI ACCOUNT (I.E. PLANE HIJACKED OVER SYRIAN TERRITORY) TREATED AS THE CORRECT ONE BY PRESS, BUT ISRAELI VERSION ACCEPTED BY GOJ. END SUMMARY.

2. SHORT, FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES IN APRIL 13 AD-DUSTOUR AND AR-RAYY ARE HEADED "ISRAELI WARPLANES HIJACK SAUDI MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT," AND "ENEMY WARPLANES INTERCEPT SAUDI AIRCRAFT AND FORCE IT TO LAND AT LYDDA." BANNER HEADLINES IN ASH-SHA'AB ANNOUNCE, "THE AIR PIRATES HAVE DONE IT AGAIN*" TEXT OF ALL ARTICLES QUOTES RIYADH RADIO AS SAYING THAT SAUDI TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT INTERCEPTED BY SQUADRON OF ISRAELI WARPLANES ON REGULAR TRIP FROM DAMASCUS OT RIYADH AND FORCED TO ACCOMPANY THEM. "THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING MEASURES
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TO HAVE THE PLANE AND ITS PASSENGERS RELEASED."

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE PLANES' CREW LOST ITS BEARINGS AND ENTERED ISRAELI AIRSPACE. PRESS ACCOUNTS NOTE THAT PLANE'S CREW INCLUDED "3 OR 4" AMERICANS, "WHOSE RELEASE FROM ISRAELI DETENTION WAS QUICKLY ARRANGED BY THE AMERICAN MILITARY AIR ATTACHE IN TEL AVIV." NO EDITORIAL COMMENT SO FAR IN PRESS. ARTICLES INCLUDE PICTURES OF PLANE ON GROUND AND OF PASSENGERS SEATED AT BEN GURION.

3. SIMILAR ACCOUNTS, WITH EXTENSIVE FILM FOOTAGE, PRESENTED ON JORDAN TY EVENING APRIL 12.

4. COMMENT: MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASSAN IBRAHIM TOLD US TODAY THAT THE GOJ ACCEPTS THE ISRAELI VERSION OF THE INCIDENT, I.E. THAT AIR NAVIGATIONAL ERROR CAUSED C-130 TO ENTER ISRAELI AIRSPACE. IBRAHIM SAID HE HAD COMPLAINED TO THOSE JOURNALISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR CIRCULATING INACCURATE VERSION OF THE INCIDENT.
SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AIRCRAFT DETENTION, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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